

City Manager (802) 334-5136
334-3891
City Clerk/Treasure 334-2112
334-3892
Public Works 334-2124
Zoning Adm./Assessor 334-6992
Recreation/Parks 334-6345
Fax 334-5632



City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855

July 23, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

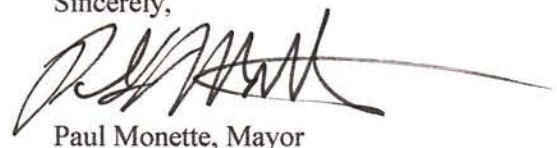
Newport, a small rural community which is located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, first received cellular and broadband service much later than most areas of the country and even the state. This has been a frustrating reality over the years, as it became harder to attract visitors, new businesses, and the most talented employees. This has been even more embarrassing as our Canadian neighbors only a few miles north of us enjoy much better connectivity.

As Mayor, I am constantly communicating with potential businesses looking to relocate to Newport and one of the first questions asked is: Do you have high speed internet services available and what type of cellular coverage is there? We do not want to fall behind again as the world's economy is fast becoming one that depends on high-speed wireless broadband. This is why I am writing to the Commission to encourage you to authorize Docket No. 11-65 regarding AT&T's acquisition of T-Mobile's licenses. I am certain that this will have significant positive effects on small communities throughout the country.

Undoubtedly, our residents' daily lives will improve as a result. As a new restaurant co-owner, I am certain it will improve our business and it will help our community become more competitive when trying to attract businesses. For instance, if a passersby were able to use their smartphones or tablets to access mobile broadband, they could quickly find not only our website, but websites and information of the many other businesses located here. Other small businesses throughout Newport will lose out on such advantages unless we can draw them to our community in similar ways.

Where one lives should not determine the amenities available to them. AT&T claims it will be able to cover an additional area of 1 million square miles and reach as many as 55 million more people after the deal is complete. That will bring us closer to universal coverage and will connect Newport and other small towns to the latest standard of wireless Internet. We cannot afford to miss such an opportunity.

Sincerely,



Paul Monette, Mayor